



LCS/bb.

Cavalli

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ISTITUTO DI GENETICA
UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA

PAVIA
VIA SANT'EPIFANIO, 14 - TEL. 23,029

Professor J. Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
Stanford University,
Stanford, California

Dear Joshua,

Your letter was certainly distressing to me and will be so to many others, but I had anticipated that something of the kind was likely to happen, considering that you had moved earlier to Stanford than formerly planned, and also that a number of meetings were going to interfere with your visit here. I wonder when another prospect of a visit of yours will turn up. I am afraid that your engagements in Stanford may keep you busy over a long period before you can have time to spend elsewhere. Let us try to save what time can be saved^{now} and see if you, during your visit of a week of more, here, between symposia, give say three conferences on e.g. genetic information. We can pay ~~£~~ 200 per conference. This would help to pay at least part of Esther's fare. It is easier for us to spend money on conferences than on fares. If you were to spend here, say ten days, it would not cost you more than ~~£~~ 150 for living expenses, and you would have ~~£~~ 450 to help towards Esther's travelling expenses.

The Spallanzani Conference in Pavia is not organized by our department but is a personal enterprise of Iucci. I will let you have information about Oparin as soon as I can gather it. I feel I should have written to you a long time ago and was about to record a tape and send it off a few days ago, when I suddenly realised that you probably don't have a Stenorette with you. Please let me know if I can use this very useful instrument.

I feel that I have owed you a reply to your invitation to Stanford for a long time. I have thought about it a great deal, especially while developments were taking place here in the last two months. The news that you had from Mike Lerner is in fact correct, although he must have had it when the news was not certain. The news of a competition for a professorial is now quite certain, and, in fact, became official last week. This may affect to some extent my plans as far as staying home or emigrating, however we shall not know the ^{final} outcome before October. My prospects for a visit to Stanford in 1960-61 are however becoming grim. The way things are going, next year I shall have to spend some more time in organizational problems, and it is only in 1960-61 that I can expect

my programmes of work to be in full swing. So that the year 1960-61 would seem the least appropriate as far as I can foresee now. There is another consideration that has stopped me considerably in my hopes to be able to spend a year or so in your lab. It is the exact estimate of the cost of the fare to San Francisco for the whole family. Travelling economy the return fare would be \$/ 3,438.90. Being able to use family fares, which would let me travel during the period October 15th to March 31st, I could spare \$ 300. I had no idea before I looked at the actual figures that it would be such a large part of one year's salary. It is not so much this, but a feeling that I may have difficulties connected with my work, that may prevent me from being able to fulfil a promise to you to accept your invitation. The chances of not being able to fulfil such a promise are too high and I would probably be unwise to accept such engagements at this stage. I would like to say, however, that I found your invitation extremely gratifying, even if I cannot accept it, and that I hope we can plan some other reciprocal visit when you come over here in May. Do not forget, anyhow, that there is always a chance that I may be begging for a job some time in the future.

We don't have much news in the lab. but things are beginning to straighten out, and I hope we may have something, either by the time you come, or at the time we exchange the next tape.

All the best,

Yours



Cara Ester,

dispiace molto anche a me. Spero comunque che tu venga in Maggio; e che tu non smetta di imparare l'Ital'ano

Arrivederci,

